Namibian Journal of Environment

Environmental Information Service, Namibia for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Namibian Chamber of Environment and the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

The *Namibian Journal of Environment* (NJE) covers broad environmental areas of ecology, agriculture, forestry, agro-forestry, social science, economics, water and energy, climate change, planning, land use, pollution, strategic and environmental assessments and related fields. The journal addresses the sustainable development agenda of the country in its broadest context. It publishes four categories of articles: **Section A: Research articles**. High quality peer-reviewed papers in basic and applied research, conforming to accepted scientific paper format and standards, and based on primary research findings, including testing of hypotheses and taxonomical revisions. **Section B: Research reports**. High quality peer-reviewed papers, generally shorter or less formal than Section A, including short notes, field observations, syntheses and reviews, scientific documentation and checklists. **Section C: Open articles**. Contributions not based on formal research results but nevertheless pertinent to Namibian environmental science, including opinion pieces, discussion papers, meta-data publications, non-ephemeral announcements, book reviews, correspondence, corrigenda and similar. **Section D: Memoirs**. Peer-reviewed monographic contributions and comprehensive subject treatments (> 100 pages), including collections of related shorter papers like conference proceedings.

NJE aims to create a platform for scientists, planners, developers, managers and everyone involved in promoting Namibia's sustainable development. An Editorial Committee ensures that a high standard is maintained.

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Announcement of changes to Namibian Journal of Environment sections

J Irish

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Abstract

This announcement serves to alert authors to recent changes in the journal's sectional arrangement.

Changes to Namibian Journal of Environment sections

The Namibian Journal of Environment has hitherto published papers in two sections, defined as follows:

- Section A: Peer-reviewed papers includes primary research findings, syntheses and reviews, testing of hypotheses, in basic, applied and theoretical research.
- Section B: Open articles will be editor-reviewed. These include research conference abstracts, field observations, preliminary results, new ideas and exchange of opinions, book reviews.

Following discussions, the following new sectional arrangement was approved by the Editorial Committee and will apply as of 28 September 2020:

- Section A. Research articles. High quality peer-reviewed papers in basic and applied research, conforming to accepted scientific paper format and standards, and based on primary research findings, including testing of hypotheses and taxonomical revisions.
- Section B. Research reports. High quality peer-reviewed papers, generally shorter or less formal than Section A, including short notes, field observations, syntheses and reviews, scientific documentation and check-lists.
- Section C. Open articles. Contributions not based on formal research results but nevertheless pertinent to Namibian environmental science, including opinion pieces, discussion papers, meta-data publications, non-ephemeral announcements, book reviews, correspondence, corrigenda and similar.
- Section D. Memoirs. Peer-reviewed monographic contributions and comprehensive subject treatments (> 100 pages), including collections of related shorter papers like conference proceedings.

Section A remains essentially unchanged from before. The former section B conceptually becomes two new sections: B and C.

The new section B reflects the *status quo* of what the original section B had become over time. Despite the stated description of the old section, the majority of papers published in section B to date had indeed undergone peer-review. The new section resolves the discrepancy between the former section description and its actual content, allowing authors to receive due credit for future section B papers.

Section C accommodates those elements of the original section B that can no longer fit in the new section B. It recognises the need to occasionally publish on matters that do fall within the scope of the journal, but do not represent conventional research results, nor lend themselves to traditional peer-review. Section C contributions will undergo informal review as needed, in addition to the normal editorial oversight. The current announcement is the first section C contribution.

Section D will in future allow the conditional publication of two kinds of bulky submissions that require a different approach compared to normal NJE papers: unusually large contributions and collections of papers that require publication as a unit. Prospective submitters should consult with the editor beforehand.

Papers published before today will not be changed retrospectively. Their cover sheets with section definitions as they were at the time of publication will remain. The new sections will apply to subsequently published papers only.